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(54) **DSL modem and method for reducing transmit echo therein**

(57) A method for reducing transmit echo (115') in a DSL modem (104) comprises selecting at least one cancellation device (152) of a plurality of cancellation de-

vices (152). An attenuation signal (117) is generated using the selected cancellation device (152). At least a portion of transmit echo (115') is removed from a receive signal (116) using the attenuation signal (117).

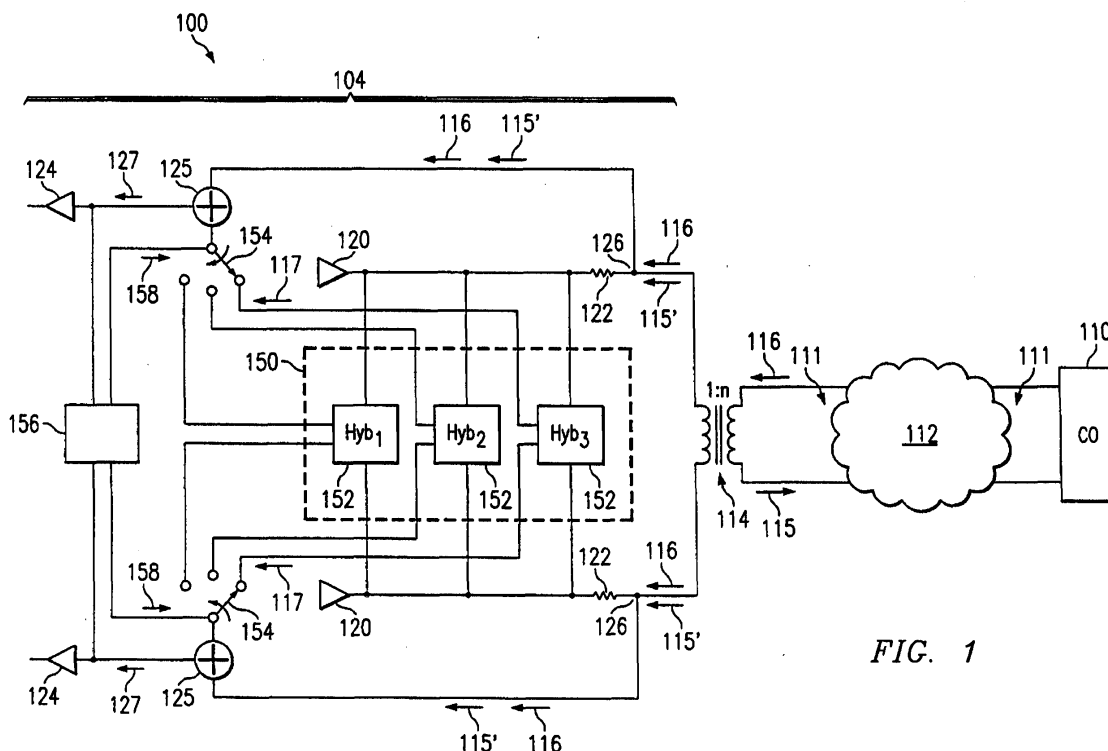


FIG. 1

Description

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates generally to DSL and, more specifically, to DSL modem and a method for reducing transmit echo therein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) provides Internet users with a technology that provides higher bandwidth and takes advantage of the installed base of copper twisted-pair telephone wire that exists between the telephone company central offices (COs) and local residential customers. ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) is a form of DSL technology that transmits more information in one direction than the other. ADSL separates the available frequencies in a wire on the assumption that most residential users download much more information than they upload.

[0003] In DSL systems, analog echo cancellation is used to prevent saturation of the receiver circuitry by the transmit signal. A cancellation device in a DSL modem models the transmit echo path transfer function to attenuate the unwanted transmit signal and noise that appears in the receiver path. The line impedance, and therefore the transmit echo, varies greatly for different loop topologies and numbers of bridged-taps. Therefore, a single cancellation device cannot achieve the same echo cancellation levels for all possible loop scenarios.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] One aspect of the invention is a method for reducing transmit echo in a DSL modem, comprising selecting at least one cancellation device of a plurality of cancellation devices. An attenuation signal is generated using the selected cancellation device. At least a portion of transmit echo is removed from a receive signal using the attenuation signal.

[0005] The invention has several important technical advantages. Various embodiments of the invention may have none, some or all of these advantages. The invention may allow a DSL or an ADSL modem to adapt to various loop topologies. This may include the advantage of improving the transmit signal attenuation for the given loop topology allowing for a lower received noise floor. Better transmit signal attenuation allows a DSL user to receive a more powerful and accurate receive signal from the central office or for the central office to receive a more powerful transmit signal from the DSL user. A further advantage may be decreased production costs for DSL modems as fewer designs and implementations may be required. Another advantage may be an improved signal-to-noise ratio. Other technical advantages of the present invention will be readily apparent to

one skilled in the art.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] For a more complete understanding of the present invention and its advantages, reference is now made to the following description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a diagram illustrating a DSL system in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

FIGURES 2A-C are exemplary charts illustrating the effect of improved cancellation in the DSL system of FIGURE 1;

FIGURES 3A-B are charts illustrating various loop impedances; and

FIGURES 4A-B are diagrams illustrating a passive cancellation network and an active cancellation network respectively.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

[0007] FIGURE 1 is a diagram illustrating a DSL system 100 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Generally, in DSL systems, both transmit signal 115 and receive signal 116 share the same physical media. Therefore, DSL receiver circuitry accommodates the receiver signal 116 and the locally generated transmit signal 115. The component of the transmit signal 115 and the noise that appears in the receiver circuitry is typically termed "transmit echo" 115'. Since the receiver circuitry accommodates both the receiver signal 116 and the transmit echo 115', the larger the transmit echo 115', the lower the effective signal-to-noise ratio of the system 100. DSL system 100 attenuates the transmit echo 115', thereby improving performance of system 100 for a DSL user or provider. A particular advantage of system 100 is that the attenuation of transmit echo 115', illustrated as attenuation signal 117, adapts according to the various loop topologies associated with system 100.

[0008] DSL system 100 includes central office 110, communications line 111, topology 112, and remote terminal 104. Remote terminal 104 is separated from central office 110, communications line 111, and topology 112 by transformer 114. For example, transformer 114 may connect a telephone line to a DSL modem. In one embodiment, the turns ratio of the transformer 114 may be used to provide gain to the transmit signal 115. It will be understood that while FIGURE 1 illustrates the attenuation of transmit echo 115' associated with the transmit signal 115 communicated by a DSL user, the attenuation of transmit echo 115' may alternatively or additionally be associated with a transmit signal 115 communicated by central office 110, without departing from the scope of this disclosure. The various features and functions de-

scribed hereto may be embodied in equipment, such as a DSL modem, located at the customer premises or at the central office.

[0009] It will be understood that transmissions from the central office 110 to the remote terminal 104 and the transmissions from the remote terminal 104 to the central office 110 are collocated on communications line 111. In this embodiment, downstream communication travels from central office 110 to remote terminal 104. Conversely, upstream communication travels from remote terminal 104 to central office 110.

[0010] Communications line 111 may comprise, for example, a subscriber loop comprising a twisted pair, which is a pair of individually insulated electrically-conductive wires twisted together. The length of communications line 111 is generally from zero kilofeet to twenty kilofeet. Communications over communications line 111 include a transmit signal 115 and a receive signal 116. Communications line 111 may include any number, including zero, of bridged-taps or other sources of line impedance, illustrated by topology 112.

[0011] Topology 112 may illustrate any number of bridge-taps and other impedances of communications line 111. The loop topology of system 100 may vary according to the characteristics of the topology 112 of communications line 111. For example, system 100 may include an ANSI T1.601 CSA (Carrier Serving Area) loop (such as, for example, CSA 4, CSA 6, and CSA 7 loop topologies), a straight loop topology (no bridged-taps), an ANS 13 loop topology, or any other appropriate loop topology based, at least in part, on loop length and number of bridged-taps.

[0012] Remote terminal 104 is an exemplary illustration of a portion of a DSL modem, a portion of an ADSL modem, or a portion of any other customer premises equipment (CPE) that may utilize the present invention. Remote terminal 104 includes a plurality of line drivers 120, a plurality of resistors 122, a plurality of line receivers 124, at least one summing node 125, at least one input node 126, adaptive cancellation network 150, switch 154, and controller 156. In one embodiment, line drivers 120 comprise operational amplifiers (op-amps) that communicate transmit signal 115 and line receivers 124 comprise op-amps that receive the receive signal 116.

[0013] Adaptive cancellation network 150 includes a plurality of cancellation devices 152. It will be understood that there may be any number of cancellation devices 152. Cancellation device 152 may include a hybrid network or any other circuitry operable to generate an attenuation signal 117 suitable to attenuate transmit echo 115'. As will be understood by those skilled in the art at the time of the invention, the transmit echo transfer function determines the amount of transmit echo 115' for communications line 111:

$$H_{TX} = \frac{Z'}{2 \cdot R_T + Z'}$$

where Z' is the impedance of communication line 111 as seen from the transmit terminals of the transformer 114 and R_T is the value of resistor 122. As described in more detail in FIGURES 3A-B, the energy of transmit echo 115' varies based, at least in part, on the loop topology of system 100. The voltage of transmit echo 115' is computed by multiplying the transfer function associated with transmit echo 115' (H_{TX}) by the voltage of the transmit signal 115 and noise (V_{TX}). Consequently, the signal at input node 126, shown below as V'_{RX} , can be determined by the following function:

$$V'_{RX} = H_{TX} \cdot V_{TX} + V_{RX}$$

where V_{RX} is the voltage of the received signal 116. The transmit echo 115', $H_{TX}V_{TX}$, may be attenuated by an appropriate cancellation device 152. The cancellation device 152 generates an attenuation signal 117 and communicates it to summing node 125. Consequently, the output at summing node 125, shown below as V''_{RX} , can be determined by the following function:

$$V''_{RX} = H_{TX} \cdot V_{TX} + V_{RX} - V_{TX}H_{Hyb}$$

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$$V''_{RX} = (H_{TX} - H_{Hyb})V_{TX} + V_{RX}$$

where $V_{TX}H_{Hyb}$ is the attenuation signal 117. The output of summing node 125 is illustrated as received energy 127. It will be understood that preferably, but not necessarily, H_{TX} and H_{Hyb} substantially equal each other thereby attenuating transmit echo 115'. This allows the received energy 127 to substantially equal the receive signal 116.

[0014] Each cancellation device 152 generates a different range of attenuation signals 117. Different attenuation signals 117 optimally attenuate transmit echo 115' for different loop topologies. Therefore, adaptive cancellation network 150 selects one or more appropriate cancellation devices 152 based, at least in part, on the loop topology of system 100. For example, multiple cancellation devices 152 may be selected at a time so that each generates an attenuation signal 117 that, in the aggregate, may attenuate transmit echo 115'. In one embodiment, controller 156 analyzes received energy 127 and communicates a control signal 158 to switch 154 based on the received energy 127. Switch 154 selects the one or more appropriate cancellation devices 152 based, at least in part, on the control signal 158. In another embodiment, the adaptive cancellation network 150 is adapted by selecting the one or more appropriate cancellation devices 152 through implementing some of

its components as a binary weighted bank of components (such as, resistors and capacitors) that can effectively take different values depending on a control signal 158.

[0015] In one example, adaptive cancellation network 150 includes a first cancellation device 152, a second cancellation device 152, and a third cancellation device 152. In this example, the first cancellation device 152 is operable to effectively attenuate transmit echo 115' in a first loop topology, such as a straight loop topology, the second cancellation device 152 is operable to effectively attenuate transmit echo 115' in a second loop topology, such as a CSA 5 loop topology, and the third cancellation device 152 is operable to effectively attenuate transmit echo 115' in a third loop topology, such as an ANS 13 loop topology.

[0016] Each cancellation device 152 may further generate an effective attenuation signal 117 for a cluster of loop topologies. In a second example, adaptive cancellation network 150 includes a first cancellation device 152, a second cancellation device 152, and a third cancellation device 152. In this example, the first cancellation device 152 is operable to effectively attenuate transmit echo 115' in a first loop topology, the second cancellation device 152 is operable to effectively attenuate transmit echo 115' in a second loop topology, and the third cancellation device 152 is operable to effectively attenuate transmit echo 115' for a third loop topology and further operable to effectively attenuate transmit echo 115' for a fourth loop topology.

[0017] In one aspect of operation, line driver 120 transmits the transmit signal 115 to the central office 110 over communications line 112. A portion of transmit signal 115 appears at transformer 114 as transmit echo 115'. The central office 110 transmits the receive signal 116 to the remote terminal 104 over communications line 111. At least one selected cancellation device 152 generates an attenuation signal 117. At summing node 125, the one or more attenuation signals 117 attenuate some or all of transmit echo 115'. As a result, received energy 127 primarily comprises receive signal 116.

[0018] There are numerous techniques that may be utilized to select the appropriate cancellation device 152 used to generate the attenuation signal 117. In one example, the central office 110 is in a quiet state and does not communicate a receive signal 116. A transmit signal 115 is transmitted over communications line 111 and transmit echo 115' is received. A first cancellation device 152 generates a first attenuation signal 117. A first received energy 127 is determined at summing node 125 using transmit echo 115' and first attenuation signal 117. A second cancellation device 152 generates a second attenuation signal 117. A second received energy 127 is determined at summing node 125 using transmit echo 115' and second attenuation signal 117. The cancellation device 152 associated with the lowest received energy 127 generally performs the best job of attenuating transmit echo 115' and is therefore selected.

[0019] In a second example, a test transmit signal 115 is transmitted over the communications line 111. The received energy 127 calculated at summing node 125 is analyzed. The impedance of the communications line 111 is estimated based, at least in part, on the received energy 127, known characteristics about line 111 and topology 112, and/or any other information regarding system 100. An appropriate cancellation device 152 is selected based at least in part upon the transmit echo transfer function. Once selected, the cancellation device 152 substantially attenuates, or cancels, the transmit echo 115'.

[0020] FIGURES 2A-C are exemplary charts illustrating the effect of improved cancellation in the DSL system 100. Referring now to FIGURE 2A, the chart illustrates an ADSL frequency distribution and includes two axes, output and frequency. FIGURE 2A includes POTS/ISDN frequency range 201, ADSL upstream frequency range 202, and ADSL downstream frequency range 203. Typically, POTS/ISDN frequency 201 is between 0 and 4 kHz, upstream frequency is between 25 kHz and 138 kHz, and downstream frequency is between 138 kHz and 1.1 MHz.

[0021] FIGURES 2B-C illustrate the effects of improving the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) by more closely matching the attenuation signal 117 to the transmit echo 115'. FIGURES 2B-C include transmit signal voltage 115 as seen in the remote terminal 104, transmit echo 115', receive signal voltage 116, attenuation signal 117, echo cancellation 211, dynamic range 212, and attenuated transmit signal 225.

[0022] As described above, transmit echo 115' is the portion of the transmit signal 115 that appears in the secondary terminals of the transformer 114. Echo cancellation 211 is an estimated energy to subtract from the transfer signal 115. Dynamic range 212 is the generally fixed energy range of the receiver 124.

[0023] FIGURES 2B-C illustrate that as the estimated energy of the attenuation signal 117 grows closer to the first transmit echo 115' in FIGURE 2B, the voltage of the attenuated transmit signal 115 will fall by a particular amount allowing the fixed dynamic range 212 to include more of receive signal 116. In other words, once the transmit signal 115 is reduced to the attenuated transmit signal 115 in FIGURE 2C, the second transmit echo 115' in FIGURE 2C is lower than the first transmit echo 115' in FIGURE 2B. This results in a stronger receive signal 116 at the receiver 124 and a higher signal to noise ratio for receive signal 116.

[0024] FIGURES 3A-B are charts illustrating line impedances for various loop topologies. FIGURE 3A illustrates the impedance of a straight loop topology. A straight loop is a loop topology without any significant bridged-taps or other sources of line impedances. Therefore, the transmit echo 115' is generally predictable with high accuracy.

[0025] FIGURE 3B illustrates the various line impedances of different loop topologies measured at different

lengths, in kilofeet, of the communications line 111. Each loop topology has variable impedances, resulting in variable transmit echo signals 115'. Therefore, adaptive cancellation network 150 determines the appropriate cancellation device 152 to attenuate transmit echo 115' for each loop topology.

[0026] FIGURE 4A illustrates one embodiment of a passive cancellation device 152 and FIGURE 4B illustrates one embodiment of an active cancellation device 152.

[0027] Referring to FIGURE 4A, passive cancellation device 152 includes three resistors 401 and two capacitors 402. By varying these exemplary components, various attenuation signals 117 may generated. In one embodiment, the energy of the attenuated signal 117, illustrated here as V_0 , can be computed by:

$$V_0 = \left[\frac{V_1 R_0}{R_1} + \frac{V_2 R_0}{R_2} + \frac{V_3 R_0}{R_3} \right]$$

[0028] Referring to FIGURE 4B, active cancellation device 152 includes HPF (high pass filter) 404, Zhyb_a 406, Zhyb_b 406, Zhyb_c 406, and op-amp 408. Zhyb_a 406, Zhyb_b 406, Zhyb_c 406 are complex impedances or a network of resistors and capacitors. The active cancellation device 152 implements a given transmit echo transfer function. By varying the components in Zhyb_a 406, Zhyb_b 406, and/or Zhyb_c 406, active cancellation device 152 implements a modified transfer function for a given loop topology. It will be understood that FIGURE 4B is an example of active cancellation network and may be implemented in a number of ways. For example, the HPF 404 can be moved to the beginning of the cancellation path to benefit dynamic range.

[0029] Although the present invention has been described in detail, it should be understood that various changes, substitutions and alterations can be made hereto without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

Claims

1. A method for reducing transmit echo in a DSL modem, comprising:

selecting at least one cancellation device of a plurality of cancellation devices;
generating an attenuation signal using the selected cancellation device; and
removing at least a portion of transmit echo from a receive signal using the attenuation signal.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of can-

cellation devices comprises at least one of a passive cancellation device and an active cancellation device.

3. The method of Claim 1 or 2, wherein the attenuation signal substantially equals the transmit echo.

4. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 3, further comprising:

transmitting a transmit signal;
receiving transmit echo;
generating a first attenuation signal using a first cancellation device;
determining a first received energy;
generating a second attenuation signal using a second cancellation device;
determining a second received energy; and

wherein selecting at least one cancellation device of the plurality of cancellation devices comprises selecting the cancellation device associated with the lowest received energy.

5. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 3, further comprising:

transmitting a transmit signal;
analyzing the transmit echo associated with the transmit signal; and
estimating the transmit echo transfer function, at least in part, on the transmit echo, wherein selecting a cancellation device of a plurality of cancellation devices comprises selecting the cancellation device based at least in part upon the estimated transmit echo transfer function.

6. The method of any one of Claims 1, 3, 4 or 5, wherein the plurality of cancellation devices comprises:

a first cancellation device operable to generate the attenuation signal for a first loop topology; and
a second cancellation device operable to generate the attenuation signal for a second loop topology.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the plurality of cancellation devices further comprises a third cancellation device operable to generate the attenuation signal for a third loop topology and further operable to generate the attenuation signal for a fourth loop topology.

8. A DSL modem, comprising:

a plurality of cancellation devices; and
circuitry operable to select at least one cancel-

lation device of the plurality of cancellation devices, generate an attenuation signal using the selected cancellation device, and remove at least a portion of transmit echo transfer function from a receive signal using the attenuation signal. 5

9. The DSL modem of Claim 8, wherein the circuitry is further operable to:

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transmit a transmit signal;
receive transmit echo;
generate a first attenuation signal using a first cancellation device;
determine a first received energy; 15
generate a second attenuation signal using a second cancellation device;
determine a second received energy; and

wherein the circuitry operable to select at least one cancellation device of the plurality of cancellation devices comprises the circuitry operable to select the cancellation device associated with the lowest received energy. 20

10. The DSL modem of Claim 8, wherein the circuitry is further operable to: 25

transmit a transmit signal;
analyze the transmit echo of the transmit signal; 30
and
estimate the impedance of the communications line based, at least in part, on the transmit echo, wherein the circuitry operable to select a cancellation device of the plurality of cancellation devices comprises the circuitry operable to select the cancellation device based upon the estimated impedance. 35

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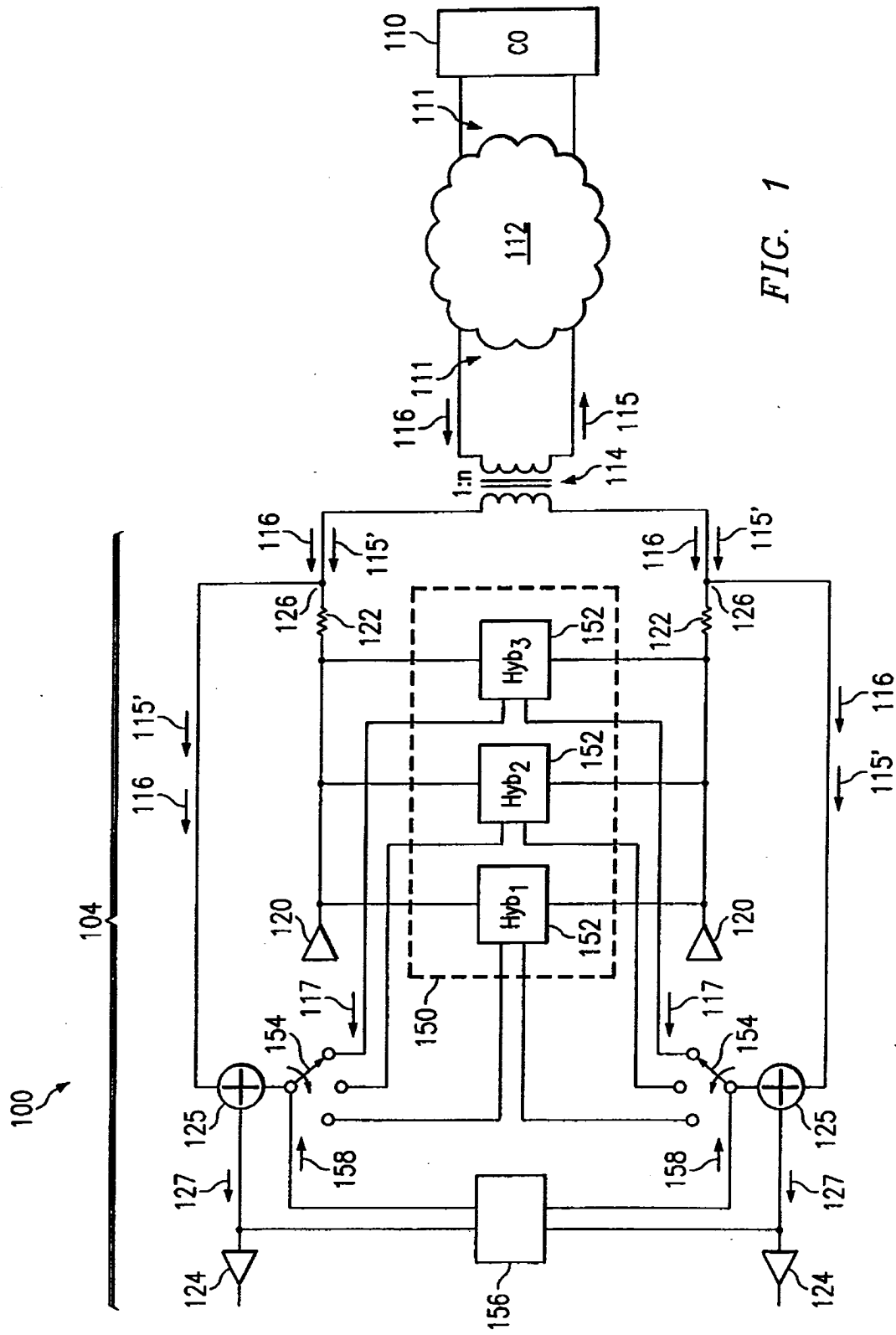


FIG. 1

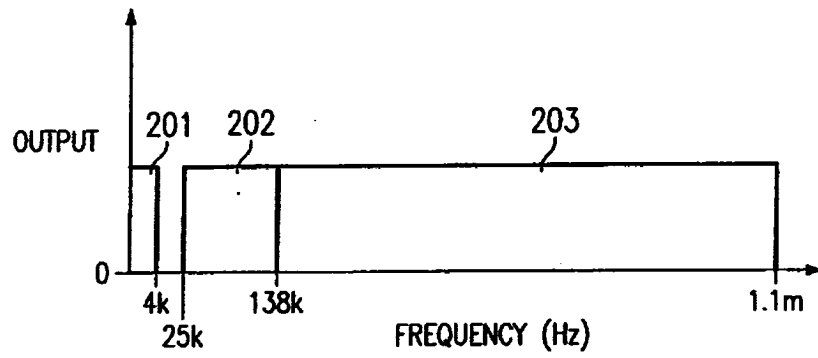


FIG. 2A

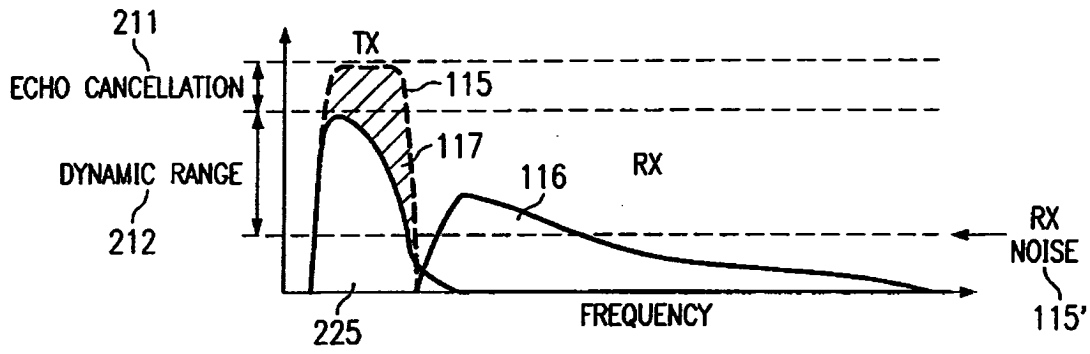


FIG. 2B

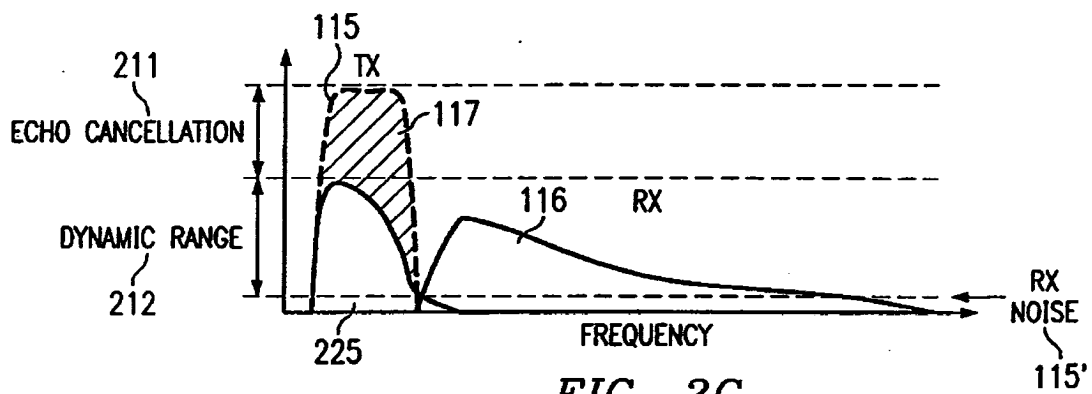


FIG. 2C

FIG. 3A

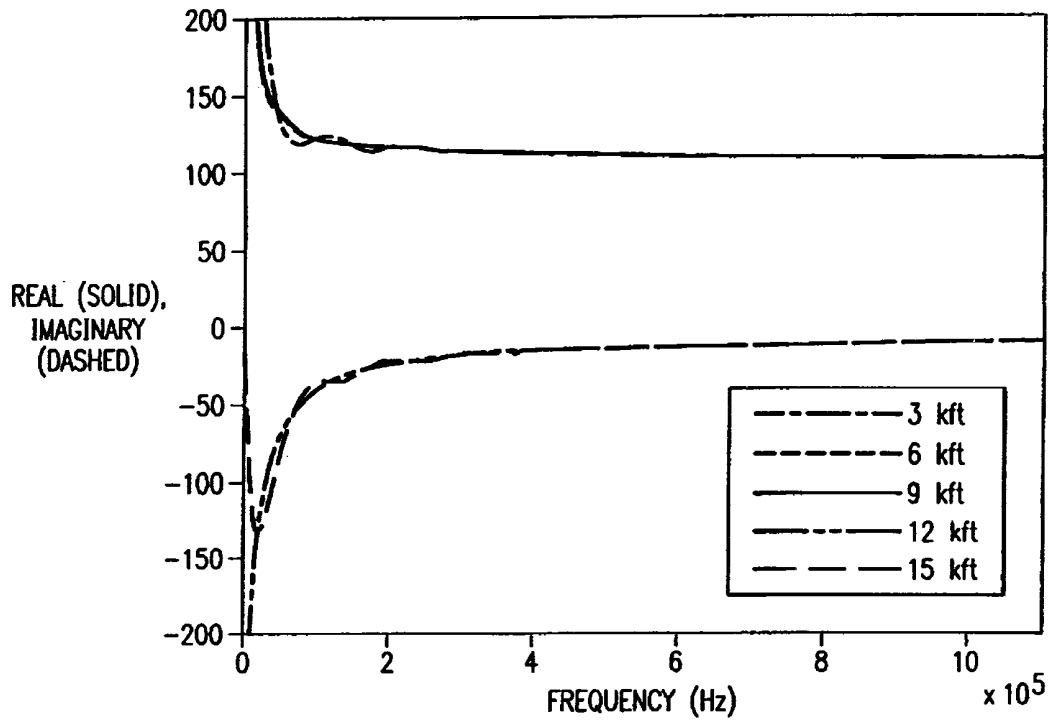
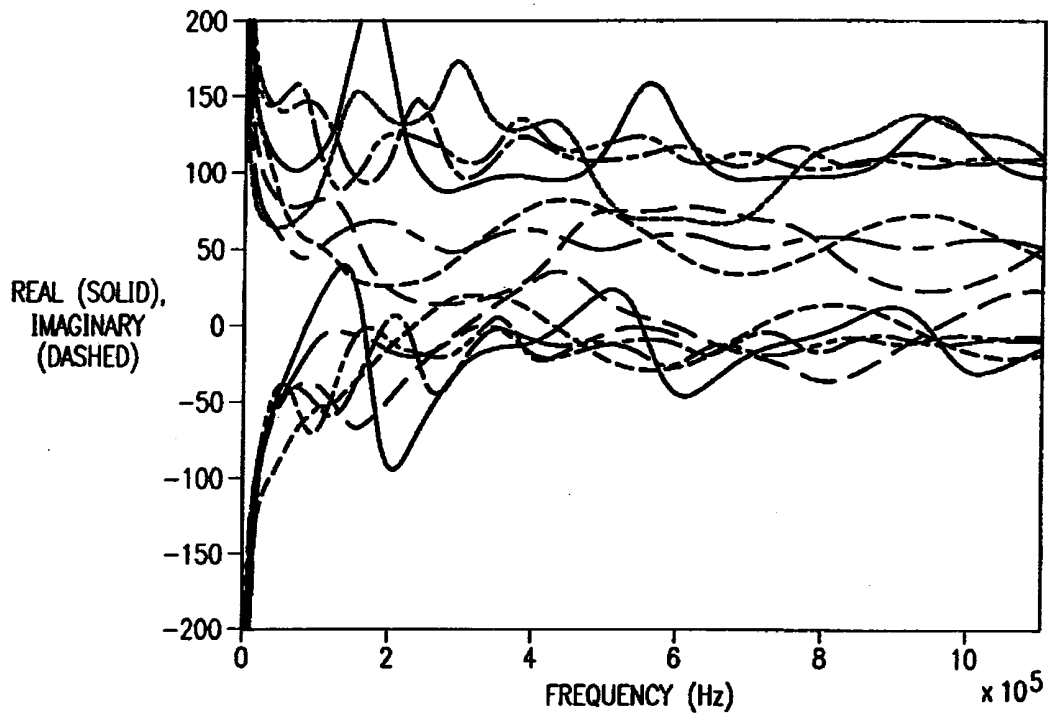


FIG. 3B



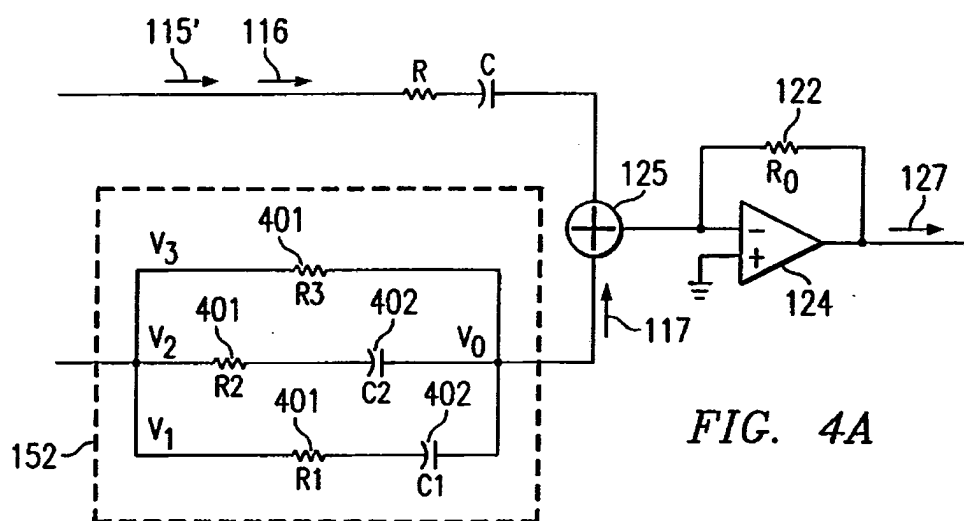


FIG. 4A

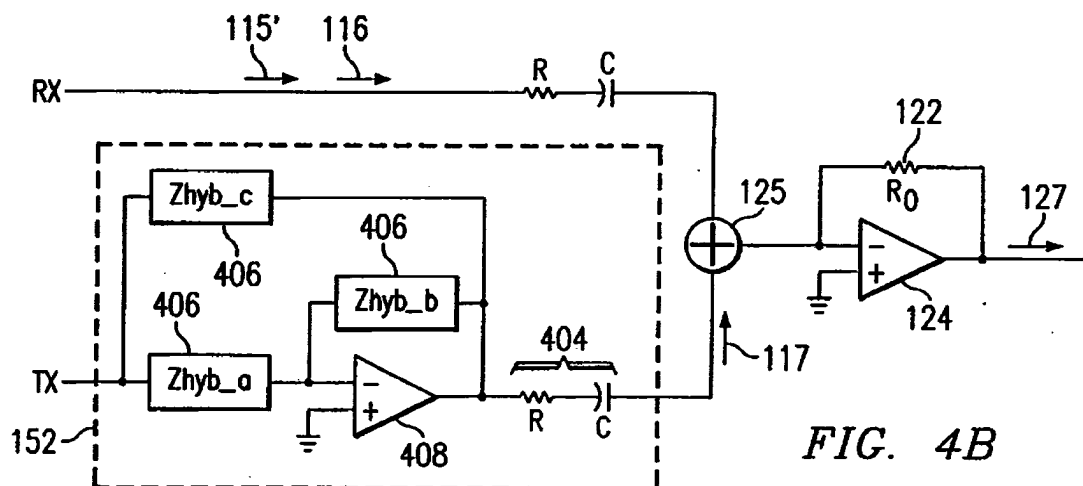


FIG. 4B



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 10 0210

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 017, no. 378 (E-1398), 15 July 1993 (1993-07-15) & JP 05 063606 A (NEC CORP), 12 March 1993 (1993-03-12) * abstract *	1-3,5-8, 10	H04B3/23
A	--- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 015, no. 054 (E-1031), 8 February 1991 (1991-02-08) & JP 02 283131 A (FUJITSU LTD), 20 November 1990 (1990-11-20) * abstract *	1-10	
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 April 2003	Examiner De Iulius, M
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